

OSCILLATING MIDDLE AXLE FOR A UTILITY VEHICLE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A utility vehicle is provided with a middle axle that is mounted at the end of a bogey beam for both rotational and oscillatory movement relative to the frame of the vehicle.

5 The middle axle is restrained longitudinally by support links that are pivotally connected to the frame at a location that is forward of the rear drive axle. The middle axle is formed by a pair of stub axles interconnected by a support beam that is pivotally connected to the rearward end of the bogey beam. Vertical movement of the middle axle support wheels results in a corresponding vertical movement of the rearward end of the bogey beam and a rotation of the support beam

10 about its pivotal connection on the bogey beam. The oscillatory movement is accomplished by a pivotal connection via a ball joint between a central support bracket mounting the transverse support beam to the longitudinally extending bogey beam.